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FCC MAIL ROOM
BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

Petition by the
US Department of Transportation for
Assignment of an N11 Code

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CC Docket 92-105
File NSD-L-98-380

REPLY COMMENTS

We are **opposed** to the assignment of an N11 code for an industry segment or technology-specific application. We suggest that N11 be reserved solely for access to mandated public services such as Public Safety Emergency (911), Public Safety Non-Emergency (311), and other such services related directly to governmental public purposes, such as access by Hearing Impaired (711), payphone refunds and other disputed billings (211), intra-NPA or intra-State directory assistance (411), telephone repair (611), and line identification or service configuration (811).

We propose the national assignment of **555-5555** for the proposed Transportation purposes, and additional 555 NXX line numbers for other governmental and private purposes (such as 555-7422 as 555-RIDE for RideSharing, etc.). This will allow for both governments and private vendors to provide supplemental services, as there are 9,890 available 555 line numbers which can be assigned centrally (NANPA), nationally, and ubiquitously (in all NPAs).

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The assignment of an N11 for the Transportation industry segment, sub-focused on cellular technology, violates fundamental precepts of the FCC numbering administration policy:

"1. Administration of the plan must seek to facilitate entry into the communications marketplace by making numbering resources available on an efficient, timely basis to communications services providers; 2. Administration of the NANP should not unduly favor or disadvantage any particular industry segment or group of consumers; 3. Administration of the NANP should not unduly favor one technology over another. The NANP should be largely technology neutral." (See In Re Proposed 708 Relief Plan and 630 Numbering Plan Area Code by Ameritech-Illinois, 10 FCC Recd. 4596 (1995); FCC 95-19, Jan., 1995)), and: 4. Administration of the NANP and the dialing plan should give consumers easy access to the public switched telephone network; 5. Administration of NANP should ensure that the interests of all NANP member countries are addressed fairly and efficiently, and foster continued integration of the NANP across NANP member countries; 6. United States numbering policy should be developed in a manner that fosters international numbering consistency and interoperability."

(Reaffirmed and supplemented in: In the Matter of Administration of the North American Numbering Plan, CC Docket No. 92-273, Release: CC Docket 92-273 (July 13, 1995)).

We believe that part of the 555 NXX should be used for public information services, as they are easily dialed numbers and there are 9,890 total line numbers (of which about 4,500 have been assigned to date).¹ Thus, not only governments may offer various services to the public, but private carriers and information service providers may offer parallel or competing 555 services. (See Comments by Sprint PCS dated July 20, 1999, p. 2, complaining that assignment of N11 to state and local government use to be restrictive;

¹ See: Uniform Dialing Plan, INC 97-0131-017, par. 1.0 - 2.8, fn. 1 (January, 1997); IILC Issue 046 (NIIF 0005) (January, 1997); OBF Issue 1038; INC 96-0308-011, par. 4.2.3, 3/8/96; ICCF 96-0411-014, 4/11/96; INC 94-0429-002 (May, 1994); (The FCC has stated that Industry consensus should not be overturned without cause. (Southern New England Telephone Expedited Petition for Emergency Interim Relief, Preliminary Injunction and Stay, 1995 FCC 6687, Release DA 95-2141, 10/6/95).

use of the 555 NXX solves Sprint PCS's concerns). In response to MCI –Worldcom's comments, we do not agree that this N11 proceeding should be used to re-argue the already Industry-rejected question of Abbreviated Dialing patterns (see MCI-WorldCom comments dated July 20, 1999).

The 555 NXX is under-utilized, adequate for all prospective simplified dialing pattern uses, is popularly associated with "information", and has not even ½-way exhausted over 5 years of assignments.

We believe that N11 should be reserved for critical network - governmental related services. There are not enough N11 numbers to serve more than two industry segments in US society. Transportation should not be given the code 511 at the expense of other American industry segments. Even 511 itself is inadequate to serve the multiplicity of transportation needs, and would choke on future expansion (i.e. ridesharing, traffic reports, schedules for trains, buses, subway, airport transit, etc., etc.). Use of 555 NXX codes would allow such expansion of services.

Thus, N11 is too scarce for assignment to an industry segment (transportation), notwithstanding uninformed endorsement by the Secretary of DOT as a result of a memorandum by the Vice President (drafted by an transportation political consultant).

The line number **555-5555** has not been assigned due to multiple applicants on July 7, 1994, and could be assigned by Order of FCC for safety-sensitive dialing (i.e. while driving) for transportation information.²

The 555 exchange (NXX), specifically 555-5555, is ideal for this Transportation information assignment. All 555 line numbers can remain 7-digit dialed (even in NPA overlay areas), particularly in the home NPA, since the assignee of a national 555 line number is the same in all NPAs (area codes) in a LATA or metropolitan area, and it is the 555 number assignees who select individual carrier(s) for each line number.³ Thus, there is not, and cannot be, any anti-competitive effect of having seven digit dialing for 555 line numbers in the USA, Canada, Caribbean, Bermuda, and Guam. (NANP Area).⁴

Thus the FCC should initially assign 555-5555 for traffic safety. It can be dialed blind while driving with repeated keystrokes and no looking down except for the first digit. Wireless carriers could program their networks to assume that a 555 three digit

² About 100 other 555 numbers also have multiple applicants, still unresolved by FCC after 3-4 years (referred in 1996 to FCC and Industry Canada by INC, NANPA, and NANC, per 555 Assignment Guidelines).

³ The Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG) should be updated to indicate routing and assignment information for the 555 NXX at a line level. The Traffic Routing Administration (TRA) has confirmed the feasibility of such entries, and is in fact implementing 911 in the LERG. The TRA already can accommodate ten ranges of 555 line numbers in the current LERG. A 555 LERG solution has been recommended by Dan Gallagher of Targus Information Corporation (716-223-7600, dangallagher@targusinfo.com). The 555 NXX is also eligible for LNP routing to LRN. Other AIN/SCP routings are already being used.

⁴ Such seven-digit dialing is already being done for the 950 NXX (feature Group B access), even in Maryland which has statewide 10-digit dialing.

time-out is in fact 555-5555, since the 555 NPA can never be used per INC guidelines.

(See: INC 96-0308-011, par. 4.2.3, 3/8/96)).

The current applicants remaining for 555-5555 from 7/7/94 should be compensated and given a replacement number application right.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard C. Bartel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" and last name "Bartel" clearly distinguishable.

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August 24, 1999

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, *RICHARD BAPTEL*, hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing —————→ Reply

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AUGUST 25, 1999


original signature